

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - PRESS REPORT ON HEROIN SOURCES

1. TWO MEXICO CITY DAILIES (EL SOL DE MEXICO AND EL UNIVERSAL) ON JULY 27 CARRIED UPI PRESS REPORT BY CHERYL ARVIDSON ON HEROIN SOURCES FOR U.S. MARKET. EL SOL RAN ITEM UNDER HEADING, "MEXICO IS NO LONGER PRIME SOURCE OF HEROIN" WHILE EL UNIVERSAL USED HEADING, "HAWAII AND GUAM ARE THE KEY POINTS FOR CONTRA-BAND HEROIN FOR THE UNITED STATES".

2. FREE TRANSLATION OF ITEM, DATELINED WASHINGTON, JULY 26:

(A) "HAWAII AND GUAM HAVE BECOME THE KEY POINTS FOR HEROIN DESTINED FOR THE UNITED STATES AND HAVE REPLACED MEXICO AS SUPPLIERS, ACCORDING TO THE HOUSE NARCOTICS COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE MEMBERS RECOMMENDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CUSTOMS PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO HAWAII AND GUAM TO HELP LOCAL OFFICIALS CONTROL THE HEROIN AND COCAINE TRAFFIC.

(B) "THE COMMITTEE CHARACTERIZED THE DISCOVERY AS THE PRELIMINARY RESULT OF A 17-DAY STUDY OF THE PRINCIPAL
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EMBARKATION PORTS IN HAWAII, GUAM, THAILAND, AND HONG KONG.

(C) "DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVE LESTER WOLFF SAID THAT HAWAII AND GUAM HAD ACQUIRED PROMINENCE AS THE DISTRIBUTION POINTS FOR HEROIN FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND COCAINE FROM LATIN AMERICA BECAUSE OF THEIR LOCATION AND THE "SUCCESSFUL SEED (SIC) ERADICATION PROGRAM IN

MEXICO." WOLFF SAID THAT THE CHANGE OF HEROIN TRAFFICKING ROUTES DEMONSTRATES "THAT THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS IS A GUERRILLA WAR" WHICH INVOLVES DISRUPTING TRADITIONAL ROUTES ONLY TO MAKE THEM MORE EXPENSIVE AND DIFFICULT. (D) "CONGRESSMAN DANIEL AKAKA SAID THAT THE LOCATION OF HAWAII HAD MADE IT A "SIGNIFICANT LINK" IN AIR AND SEA NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. HE ADDED THAT HONOLULU AIRPORT RANKS SECOND IN THE COUNTRY FOR FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, AND THAT ANOTHER 60 AGENTS ARE NEEDED TO DO AN EFFECTIVE JOB AT THE AIRPORT. "I AM TRULY SURPRISED", SAID AKAKA, "THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE DOG ASSIGNED TO COVER THE AIRPORT, THE PORT, AND THE POSTAL INSTALLATIONS."

(E) "THE COMMITTEE SAID THAT THE RESIDENTS OF GUAM FEEL THEIR LIVES THREATENED DAILY BY THE TRAFFIC."

3. COMMENT: REPORT THAT MEXICO IS NO LONGER PRIME SOURCE OF HEROIN IS, IF TRUE, MOST ENCOURAGING. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CLARIFICATION OR SUPPORTIVE DATA FROM COMMITTEE OR EXECUTIVE BRANCH SOURCES AS WE ANTICIPATE GOM INQUIRIES. LUCEY

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